

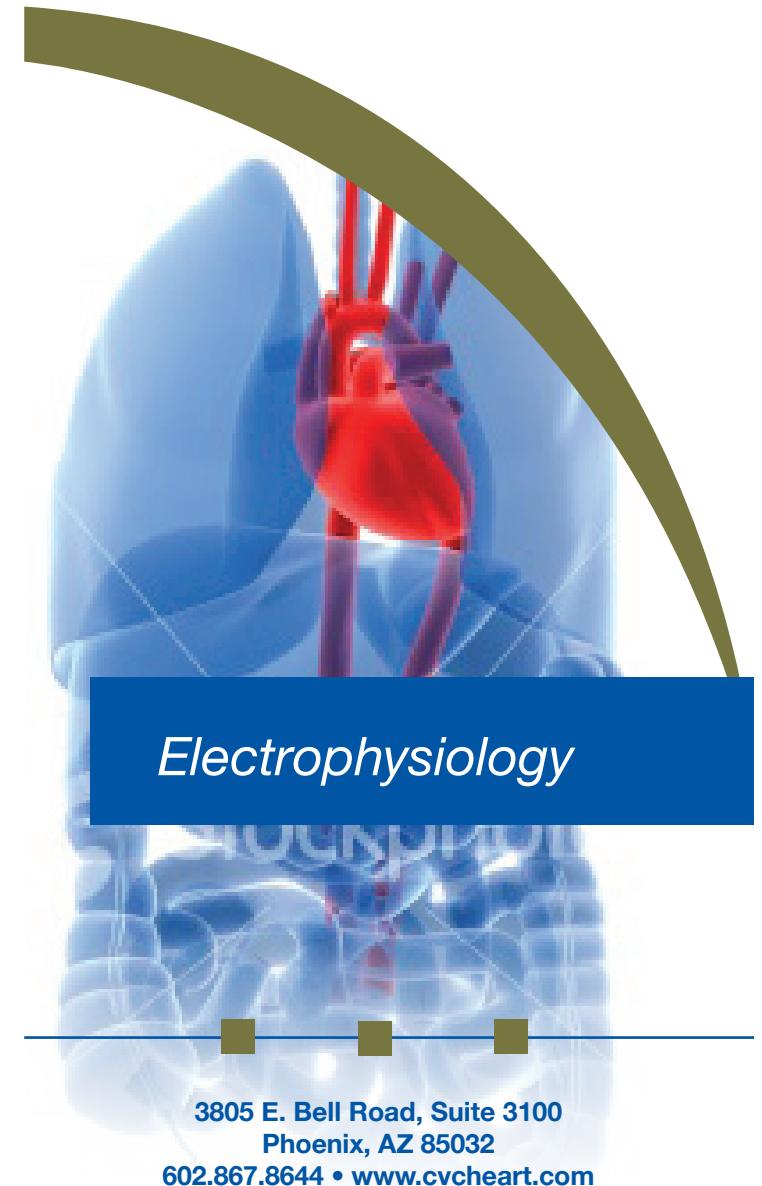
OTHER SURGERIES:

- You will need to notify the physician performing your procedure that you have a pacemaker/defibrillator so the proper arrangements to care for your device can be made.
- Electrocautery treatments during surgery may interfere with an ICD and cause a “false shock.” A magnet placed over the ICD will inactivate the defibrillator function (not the pacemaker function) appropriately during surgery.
- When the magnet is removed, normal function will resume. Alternatively, the company representative may inactivate it prior to the procedure and reactivate it after your procedure has been completed. If you are pacemaker dependent, then it is prudent to have a representative program the device before AND after your surgery.

WHAT ABOUT THE AIRPORT:

- Immediately following your surgery, you will receive a temporary identification card. A permanent identification card will be sent to you by mail in approximately 8 weeks. Keep this card with you at all times. When going on a trip, inform airport personnel that you have a pacemaker/defibrillator and show them your device ID card. If you are hand searched, the metal detection equipment should not be placed directly over your pacemaker/defibrillator. Walking through the security passageways without stopping should not adversely affect your device.

For all other questions, concerns, or if you experience symptoms, call our Case Management department at 602.494.3642 and they will assist you.



*Founded in 1986,
Cardiovascular Consultants, Ltd. is the
largest cardiovascular group in Arizona.*

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WHAT DOES THE INCISION LOOK LIKE AFTER SURGERY?

You will likely notice a bump adjacent to the site of the surgery that is firm. This is the “can” or body of the device. It is not uncommon to have some bruising near the surgical site and occasionally a small collection of blood beneath the skin (hematoma).

WOUND CARE:

Keep the area where the device was inserted clean and dry. Do not get the wound site wet for 5 days. This will reduce your chances of infection. Call your doctor if you notice any of the following:

- Unusual redness or drainage from the wound site
- Fever of greater than 100.5 degrees
- Chills

FOLLOW UP:

You will need to be seen 1 to 2 weeks after your procedure to have a wound check. After that your device will need to be checked every 3 to 6 months (depending on the type of device you have) to ensure the function of your pacemaker/defibrillator is appropriate.

- You should have been scheduled for a follow up visit when scheduled for your procedure. If not, call 602.652.8790 when you arrive home to schedule a follow up appointment within 1 to 2 weeks.

- Each time your device is checked it displays the voltage of the battery. When the battery gets low, your device will have to be replaced. This is called ERI or “elective replacement indicator”. Typically the battery will last 4 to 6 years before it will need to be replaced.

CAN I DRIVE AFTER THE DEVICE GOES IN?

- If you lost consciousness due to a heart rhythm abnormality, you typically cannot drive for a period of time after the device is implanted. That will be determined at your first follow up visit.
- If the device was installed as primary prevention, driving will likely be permitted once you feel “back to normal”.

RESUMING NORMAL ACTIVITIES:

- Avoid extreme activities such as pulling, pushing, or lifting motions for 6 to 8 weeks (i.e. placing your arm over your head without bending at the elbow). You may resume golf and sexual intercourse after 8 weeks. This will ensure appropriate healing time for the incision “pocket”. It will also ensure the stability of lead placement within the heart.
- Avoid lifting objects heavier than 15 pounds for at least 10 days.

- MRI scans can adversely affect your device. You CANNOT have an MRI.
- CT scans are acceptable.
- Microwave ovens, electric blankets and heating pads may be used. Speak with your physician prior to using an arc welder or anything that has a prolonged electrical current or strong magnetic field.
- Cellular phones should be used on the side opposite of your device. Do not touch the spark plug or distributor wire of a running car. Being next to a running car should not adversely affect your device.

WHAT IF I GET SHOCKED AT HOME?

(This only applies to patients with an ICD device)

- You do not typically have to rush to the hospital if you are shocked by your ICD. All the data from a shock is stored safely in your device and can be detected at the time of your next interrogation.
- 1 shock: If you feel fine after the shock, you can be seen within the next few days to assure things are working appropriately. Remain calm and notify your physician. If you do not feel well and have shortness of breath, chest pain or dizziness, go to the emergency room.
- 2 shocks: If you experience two shocks within a 24 hour period, go to the nearest emergency room to be evaluated.

